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This Volume

THE PREFACE.

THE Tranſactions of this Year have been as remarkable as thoſe of any within the Memory of Man. Other Years have been more noted for Victories, but we have ſcarce heard of one that has been chequer'd with greater Viciſſitudes, at home and abroad. The Turns of Providence have been ſo great and ſurprizing, as is ſufficient to convince us, that neither Humane Power, nor Wiſdom, are to be relied on, and much-leſs idoliz'd. The wiſe Man ought not to glory in his Wiſdom, nor the ſtrong Man in his Strength. *If they do, it provokes the Divine Juſtice to rebuke them.* *'Tis He* who pulls down one, and ſets up another; *who gives Victories, and brings about Defeats: He is* the wonderful Counſellor, and the Lord of Hoſts; *therefore his Counſel muſt ſtand, and no Weapon form'd againſt him ſhall proſper. This ſhou'd cauſe all thoſe who know him, to make him the chief Object of their Truſt; and when he chaſtens them, to take it as the Rebuke of a Father; to enquire into the Cauſes of his Diſpleaſure, and to beg his Aſſiſtance to repent and reform.*

The Liberties of Europe, *and the Proteſtant Religion, ſeem to be in as great Danger at preſent, as at any time ſince the Reformation. Nothing threatens them more than the unhappy Diviſions which rage ſo much in this Iſland, and are ſo induſtriouſly fomented by Men of Popiſh and Arbitrary Principles.*

It has always been the Deſign of this Paper to obviate and expoſe thoſe Meaſures, which makes it ſo much the Object of ſome Peoples Hatred: however, 'tis ſome Proof of its doing Service, that ſuch Men are its Enemies. Thoſe who are doing what they can, under falſe pretexts of Zeal for the Monarchy and the Church, to ſubvert our Eſtabliſh'd Religion and Government, don't love to be told of it. But 'tis neceſſary they ſhou'd; and ſo long as I have the Law

on

on my ſide, I don't value their Threats. They may flatter themſelves upon their ſeeming Anvantages; but they will be convinc'd one Day, to their Coſt, that the Britiſh *Conſtitution will be an Over-match for them. Tho God, for our Sins, may ſuffer us to be again endanger'd by that Popery and Slavery which many among us are ſo fond of, yet we have no reaſon to doubt, if we return to Him, that He who has ſo frequently appear'd for that Religion and Liberty which are his own Gifts, to make Men happy both in this World and the other, will ſtill enable us, under the Auſpices of her Majeſty, and of the* Hanover *Family, upon whom the Entail is ſettl'd, to defend our ſelves againſt the Attempts of* France *and* Rome, *for time to come, as well as we have done in times paſt.*

'Tis needleſs to ſay any thing of the Subjects of the following Volume, ſince that may eaſily be ſeen by the Alphabetical Index, and the Contents at the Head of the Papers. As the Occurrences treated of have been remarkable, 'tis hoped the Reflections upon 'em will not be unacceptable to ſuch as are Lovers of their Country, of reform'd Chriſtianity, and of the Liberties of Mankind.

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